

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 ACDA-19 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01

RSR-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 /159 W

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R 171455 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7419

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH

USEUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1179

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: PRESSURE ON DENKTASH CONTINUES

REF: NICOSIA 1068

SUMMARY: FOUR ADDITIONAL TURK CYPRIOT UNIONS AUTHORIZE STRIKE. COMPROMISE ON WAGE DEMANDS APPEARS POSSIBLE. TURKISH EMBASSY AND MILITARY MAKE NO EFFORT HALF KUCHUK'S ANTI- DENKTASH EDITORIAL CAMPAIGN. EXPANDED TMT DRAFT AND SPARTAN MILITARY JUSTICE BILL ALSO INCREASE PRESSURE ON TCPA. END SUMMARY

1. AS RESULT MAY 16 STRIKE VOTE BY FOUR UNIONS IN ADDITION TO ALREADY STRIKING CIVIL SERVANTS AND TEACHERS, VIRTUALLY ALL TCPA EMPLOYEES NOW THREATEN WALKOUT IF WAGE DEMANDS NOT MET. UNIONS HAVE SET NO DATE FOR
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STRIKE AND, THUS FAR, ONLY HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ON PICKET LINE. COMPROMISE APPEARS POSSIBLE. UNION LEADERS TELL US THEY WILLING SCALE DOWN WAGE DEMANDS IF ADMINISTRATION ACCEPTS PRINCIPLE THAT WORKERS ENTITLED COST- OF- LIVING ALLOWANCE. TCPA OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED SOME FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE BUT STATE THEY WILL NEED ADDITIONAL TURKISH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SATISFY WORKERS. EMBASSY CONTACTS ASSUME THAT POSSIBLE INCREASE IN TURKISH GRANT WILL BE ONE OF MAIN POINTS COVERED DURING CHARGE INHAN' S CURRENT CONSULTATIONS IN ANKARA.

2. INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT NEITHER TURKISH EMBASSY NOR BAYRAKTAR (CLANDESTINE MILITARY COMMANDER) HAVE TAKEN ANY STEPS TO HALT FORMER VP KUCHUK' S EDITORIAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST DENKTASH, WHICH CONTINUES UNABATED. KUCHUK' S SON CLAIMS BAYRAKTAR' S OFFICE HAS GIVEN TACIT SUPPORT TO HIS PAPER' S CRITICISM OF TCPA, WARNING ONLY THAT MILITARY BE LEFT OUT. YOUNG KUCHUK HINTED FATHER MAY FORM POLITICAL PARTY TO OPPOSE DENKTASH, NOTING THAT HALKIN SESI HAS ADVOCATED EARLY ELECTIONS TO FILL TWO ASSEMBLY VACANCIES.

3. KUUCHUK' S CHARGES THUS FAR UNANSWERED, WITH NORMALLY PRO- DENKTASH BOZKURT UNCHARACTERISTICALLY SILENT. (MANY IN COMMUNITY CERTAIN BOZKURT FINANCED BY TURKEY.) DENKTASH SUPPORTERS REPORTEDLY PLAN LAUNCH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER ON JUNE 1 TO FILL THIS VOID.

4. TCPA ALSO TROUBLED BY COMPLAINTS OVER EXPANDED TMT DRAFT, LARGELY FROM COMMUNITY' S PRIVATE SECTOR. BECAUSE OF SIMULTANEOUS DISCHARGES, DRAFT APPEARS TO REPRESENT NO INCREASE IN NET TMT STRENGTH BUT RATHER EFFORT ENLIST THOSE WHO HAVE AVOIDED MILITARY SERVICE THUS FAR. TCPA VULNERABILITY TO CRITICISM FURTHER INCREASED BY SPARTAN MILITARY JUSTICE BILL WHICH INTRODUCES DEATH PENALTY FOR SEEMINGLY MINOR OFFENSES. TURK CYPRIOT OFFICIALS HAD VOWED AMEND BILL' S MORE OFFENSIVE SECTIONS DURING LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATE. WHEN IT CAME TO CRUNCH, LEGISLATORS' COURAGE FALTERED AND THEY DOCILELY, INDEED UNANIMOUSLY, PASSED BAYRAKTAR- WRITTEN LEGISLATION WITHOUT CHANGE.

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5. COMMENT: THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DISAFFECTED ELEMENTS WITH TURK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY BUT THESE HAVE LACKED BOTH LEADERSHIP AND VEHICLE OF EXPRESSION KUCHUK MAY BE IN POSITION PROVIDE BOTH. WHILE CERTAINLY NOT CHARISMATIC LEADER AND PROVEN FAILURE AS ADMINISTRATOR, KUCHUK NEVERTHELESS LENDS SOME

RESPECTABILITY TO OPPOSITION WHICH DENKTASH MIGHT
OTHERWISE EASILY DISMISS. WE NOTE WITH INTEREST THAT
TURKISH GOVT ELEMENTS, WHICH HEAVILY COMMITTED TO
DENKTASH DURING RECENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN, ARE NOT RUSHING
IN TO HIS DEFENSE.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NICOSI01179
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730547/aaaajiwa.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 NICOSIA 1068
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980218
Subject: CYPRUS: PRESSURE ON DENKTASH CONTINUES
TAGS: PINT, CY, PINT
To: ANKARA
ATHENS
LONDON
NATO
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
USDOCOSOUTH

USEUCOM
USUN

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005